



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications

Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

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President Shelly Vetoes Title 2 Amendments

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly vetoed a bill that would have reduced the comment period for newly introduced bills to the Navajo Council and given the Navajo Nation Speaker power to move council meeting places.

President Shelly vetoed CJY-31-13 Monday.

President Shelly applauded the intention of the first amendment to Title 2, which would have reduced the time period for public comment for newly introduced bills from five days to four days.

“It is clear the Navajo Nation Council’s motive is government efficiency,” President Shelly wrote in his veto memorandum to Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize.

“I would respectfully request the Navajo Nation Council to continue the discussion regarding the comment period in order to find a balance to assure the Navajo People their comments can be received and continue to promote efficacy within our government legislative process,” President Shelly wrote.

The other amendment would have given the Navajo Nation Council Speaker the authority to designate alternative meeting sites for Navajo Council meetings.

President Shelly stated that he understands the idea of bringing the government to the people but he wants a cost analysis for moving meetings from Window Rock even though most of the council meetings are webcasted.

“The Navajo Nation Council provided the opportunity for millions to access the Navajo government through the Internet. This achievement is applauded. However, the possibility to designate an alternative meeting place will be at greater financial cost to the Navajo Nation. In order to consider this additional authority a cost analysis should be provided,” President Shelly wrote.

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